

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-3, 15, and 16. Therefore, claims 4-14 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO form submitted with the April 16, 2004 IDS.

Claim Amendments

Claims 4, 5, and 12 are each amended into independent form, including the limitations of claims 1 and 2 from which they previously depended.

Title

The Examiner objects to the title as non-descriptive. With this Amendment, Applicants amend the title and respectfully request that the objection thereto be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Nakamura (U.S. Patent 4,887,107) in view of Nomura (U.S. Patent 6,978,089). Claims 6, 7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Nomura and Bradshaw (U.S. Patent 4,969,719). Claims 1-3, 15, and 16 are cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 4-14.

Regarding claims 4, 5, and 12, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the cited references of a "light quantity controlling member" that moves integrally with

a retractable lens group along the optical axis and which is retracted integrally with a lens group when the lens barrel is collapsed. Regarding this limitation, the Examiner refers to col. 11, lines 49-57 of Nomura (“Although the second lens group L2 is the optical element among the optical elements of the photographing optical system which is removed from a position on the optical axis thereof in the above illustrated embodiment of the retractable zoom lens, one or more of any other optical element such as the diaphragm shutter S and the low-pass filter F can constitute the removable optical element(s) in the same manner as the second lens group L2 of the above illustrated embodiment of the retractable lens system.”).

This portion of Nomura merely recites that a shutter may be a retractable element. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the shutter being moveable *integrally* with another retractable element. Neither Nakamura nor Bradshaw remedy this deficiency of Nomura.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 4, 5, and 12 are patentable over the cited references and that claims 6-11, 13, and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/825,673

Attorney Docket No.: Q81050

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

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